

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 MCT-01 /094 W
-----109663 250609Z /23/43

P R 241524Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3310
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
SUBJ: CONTINUING TURMOIL IN THE DMC

REF: TEL AVIV 6125

1. DMC MK AMNON RUBINSTEIN DECLARED ON MAY 22 THAT HE
FAVORED HIS PARTY'S DEPARTURE FROM THE COALITION UNLESS THERE
IS AN EARLY CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON PEACE NEGO-
TIATIONS. RUBINSTEIN SAID HE WILL TRY TO PERSUADE PARTY
CHAIRMAN YIGAEI YADIN TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT NO MORE THAN
"A FEW WEEKS" TO MOVE TOWARD GREATER MODERATION.

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2. THE NEXT DAY YADIN SHARPLY REBUKED RUBINSTEIN AT A PARTY
MEETING FOR AIRING HIS CRITICISM IN PUBLIC BEFORE COMPLAINING
IN A PARTY FORUM. INDICATING HE MIGHT NOT BE ADVERSE TO A
PARTY SPLIT, YADIN SAID, "A SMALLER, THOUGH PLURALISTIC,
PARTY IS BETTER THAN SOMETHING BIGGER WHICH BORDERS ON
ANARCHY."

3. MEANWHILE, DMC MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT ISRAEL KATZ ALSO HINTED TO REPORTERS HIS CONCERN WITH HIS PARTY'S LACK OF INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. AND ANOTHER DMC MK, ZEIDAN ATCHE, WHO IS NOT USUALLY IDENTIFIED WITH RUBINSTEIN'S FACTION, CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF LEAVING THE COALITION.

4. COMMENT: RUBINSTEIN'S REMARKS LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HIS STATEMENTS LAST MONTH SUPPORTING THE BEGIN PEACE PLAN DID NOT SIGNAL HIS REHABILITATION WITHIN THE COALITION. HE CONTINUES TO LEAD THE DMC DISSIDENTS--A FACT ONE OF THE STALWARTS OF THE GROUP, MK SHMUEL TOLEDANO, CONFIRMED TO US A FEW HOURS PRIOR TO RUBINSTEIN'S TV INTERVIEW. TOLEDANO WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO THE PROSPECTS OF A PARTY SPLIT BUT IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, MK MORDECHAI ELGRABLI, A YADIN LOYALIST, DISCOUNTED THE LIKELIHOOD OF A DIVISION BEFORE THE JUNE 28 ELECTION OF A NEW DMC COUNCIL. ELGRABLI CHARACTERIZED THE PUBLIC INTRA-PARTY BICKERING AS PART OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, BUT HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RUBINSTEIN FACTION WOULD BOLT DMC AND LEAVE THE COALITION AFTER THE JUNE 28 MEETING IF THEY FEEL ISOLATED WITHIN THE PARTY. THAT POLL COULD BE A DECISIVE TEST OF THE PARTY'S COHESIVENESS AND FUTURE IN THE GOVERNMENT. YADIN AND BEGIN KNOW THIS AND WILL PRIVATELY SEEK TO PREVENT IT FOR THE SAKE OF DMC AND GOVERNMENT SOLIDARITY. FOR THEIR PART, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RUBINSTEIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE CRAWLED A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE OUT ON A LIMB. IT MAY BE THAT WHEN THEY LOOK DOWN AND SEE THE ALTERNATIVE OF OBSCURITY AND IMPOTENCE IN OPPOSITION, THEY MAY THINK IT OVER ONCE AGAIN. HOWEVER, YADIN'S OPPONENTS WITHIN THE DMC ARE NOW MORE CONFIDENT THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE RECENT PAST. THEY INCREASINGLY BELIEVE THAT IT COULD BE YADIN AND NOT HIMSELVES, WHO IN THE END WOULD FEEL FORCED TO GIVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SCHISMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV06710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780226-0223
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780522/aaaaasje.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7064597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 6125
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2580992
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING TURMOIL IN THE DMC
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS, (RUBINSTEIN, AMNON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7064597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014